

Submission
No 287

**INQUIRY INTO PLANNING PROCESS IN NEWCASTLE
AND THE BROADER HUNTER REGION**

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 24/10/2014

Partially Confidential

24 October 2014

The Hon. Mike Baird, MP
Premier of New South Wales
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

RE: SUBMISSION TO UPPER HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE INTO HUNTER PLANNING

Dear Premier,

As a resident of Newcastle I urge you to halt major developments in Newcastle and the Hunter region until after the State Election in 2015.

ICAC's revelations and allegations of corruption in Newcastle and the Hunter region place our former Lord Mayor and BuildDev at the nexus of this corruption. This political scandal has shattered the trust of the people in our state and local governments, and discredits its planning and development decisions. The brazen breaches of the law by local politicians and developers demands that an inquiry into development be held to restore public confidence in our government.

Your call for this inquiry will demonstrate to the people of Newcastle and the Hunter that corruption will not be tolerated in government and would mark a return to honest and transparent governance.

I implore you to call for an inquiry into the following major developments:

- Stop the Newcastle East End Project, the proposed high rise development
(DA2014/323) lodged by UrbanGrowth NSW / GPT Group
- Revoke the 2014 State Environmental Planning Policy Amendments to the
2012 Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy
- Hold a probity audit of all material concerning the UrbanGrowth /
GPT

project

..Reverse the decision to stop heavy rail services into Newcastle at Wickham Station - as put forward in a motion by the Hon. Greg Piper, MP. There are many ways to improve the connectivity of the harbour to the city without truncating the rail line to Newcastle Station. Many of Newcastle's less advantage people rely on the Rail to Newcastle Station, as do many regional people and tourists. Never sell the railway land.

- Hold an inquiry into current planning processes in Newcastle and the Hunter Region, with particular reference to DA2014/323 lodged by GPT Group and UrbanGrowth NSW; cutting Newcastle train services at Wickham Station; the lease of the Newcastle Port Authority; the T4 coal loader proposal, and the Whitebridge development plan.
- Enquire into the spot re-zoning of No.1 Ordnance street Newcastle, known as the Headland Reserve within King Edward Park.

I ask you to demonstrate your stated desire to restore public confidence in our political system by proceeding with an inquiry into planning and development in Newcastle and the Hunter.

I look forward to your support and response.

Yours sincerely,